



Congressman
BENNIE THOMPSON
 REPRESENTING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



The Thompson Report

**No Quick Fix For
Credit Problems**

**Medicaid Cuts Affect Mississippians
Young And Old**

**Injustice Is Injustice:
There Is No Difference**

**Congressman Thompson
Visits Sallis, MS**

MISSISSIPPI

AGRICULTURE
BLUES
HISTORY



No Quick Fix For Credit Problems

Eenie meenie minie moe... who get's paid this month! Playing the money game is a fact of life for many people in my district. From month to month, many are faced with having to choose between eating, purchasing monthly medicines, which bills will get paid, etc. No matter what the case maybe, the bulk of the problems lie in insufficient income. For years I have made efforts and strides in meeting the needs of my constituents from trying to prevent jobs from leaving, protecting those who can not protect themselves (i.e., children in Oakley), to opening the doors of hope for people who want to become home owners by working with lending agencies on lower-

ing the down payment amount required.

Often times people are denied credit because of past credit history, therefore it was important that I bring in folks who can help. "Understanding The Importance Of Credit Worthiness: How

***"Do not be fooled,
credit improvement
is a process and it
takes time..."***

To Keep It Healthy, How To Restore It When Damaged," provided information about how to improve credit, identity theft,

regulatory guidelines for Banks, money and predatory lending, mail fraud, debt consolidation, and credit reporting and consumer rights.

It is very easy to get scammed, especially when you are in debt and looking for a way

Medicaid Cuts Affect Mississippians Young and Old

The Mississippi State Legislature has recently passed legislation that will end Medicaid eligibility for 65,000 thousand citizens both poverty level aged and disabled. According to state administrators, the cuts in Medicaid were

necessary to save over 100 million dollars for the state's taxpayers. The proposed cut is the biggest in the history of Medicaid and any other State cut in our country's history.

The dice are being

Injustice Is Injustice: There Is No Difference

Prison abuse has garnered attention over the past month, following reports and photos illustrating mistreatment of detainees. Lawsuits filed to punish the wrong send a message of America's pursuit of justice, pushing

individuals through the revolving doors of institutions similar to the ones they once guarded does very little to address the problem. Top administrative officials hide from responsibility, afraid of the potential effects of this

Serving: Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Montgomery, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, Yazoo

CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON VISITS SALLIS, MS

"This year's highway bill is a testament to the leadership of local officials and cooperation between local and federal government."



Congressman Thompson in Sallis, Mississippi

One of my duties as the representative for the Second Congressional District is to participate in public meeting to hear the concerns of citizens and answer questions. This helps me to do my job by learning first hand from constituents what their needs are. On May 29, 2004 at a town hall meeting Sallis, MS, Attala County; at the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church citizens

were concerned about educational funding, the war in Iraq and roads. However, roads were the majorities concern.

Congress recently passed the Transportation Equity Act, commonly referred to as the "highway bill". The bill is a reauthorization of federal highway programs such as those which fund new highway construction and maintenance. Nearly 50 cities and towns in the Second District will receive highway funding total-

ing \$24 million, in the bill we passed today. Attala County will get \$1.3 million. These projects will be a significant economic boost to large and small communities alike. TEA-LU will create 700,000 new jobs across the country. Throughout this process, we gave special consideration to small communities and searched for projects that would have an economic impact. This year's highway bill is a testament to the leadership of local officials and coopera-

tion between local and federal government.

"Who is responsible for paving the roads in the city and county," asked one citizen. As most of you know, paving roads is a local responsibility; it is not a federal responsibility. I just kind of took it upon myself to provide some of that local responsibility. And then I found out that I gave more money to the budget than was in the complete budget for this area, so it all turned out

great. It lessens the tax burden on local citizens and it means that some of you will not be eating dust. Instead you will at least live on a paved road and I think that's important! Bottom line, if you have a bridge that

is impassable and it is located in the county as opposed to a particular town, that supervisor has the responsibility for keeping that bridge open. That's their job! But

still we all have to work together, I wanted to commit the money and now local leadership has to get the job done using that money.

My constituents want to

With that in mind, I voted against going to war in Iraq but in favor of a resolution that would include the United Nations and our allies if we went to war.

Since the beginning of war,

the current situation and I am thinking about our soldiers. I have voted to support our boys and girls over there to help them come home safely and end this war so that we can stop

loosing innocent lives and I'll con-

Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at www.house.gov/thompson.

know about the war in Iraq and what is currently going on. I am always going to think about the present and future when making a decision while at the same time remembering the past.

over 800 soldier have lost their lives and I've been to four funerals of people in this district who lost their lives and it has not proved a thing. Nevertheless, it is

tinue to do.

For more information contact Trina George in my Greenwood office.

Medicaid Cuts Affect Mississippians Young and Old



Congressman Bennie Thompson at Fulwiler Elementary Graduation May 24, 2004

rolled in hopes that some of those citizens will be eligible for Medicare while simultaneously no state plans have been proposed to cover over 18,000 people afflicted by various chronic diseases if federal waivers are not available. The most noticeable change for those transferring from Medicaid to Medicare will be the cost of prescription drugs. Under Medicare coverage, the price of pre-

scription drugs could possibly skyrocket up to ten times more.

Recently, state officials

"Policy makers should have a higher sense of responsibility to the citizens..."

have come under increased scrutiny from many of the 65,000 Mississippians removed from Medicaid and various public health organi-

zations. This is truly an issue that bonds us all. Policy makers should have a higher sense of responsibility to the citizens they represent. I will continue to play a leadership role in the ongoing national debate regarding healthcare trying to make sure all Americans have access to healthcare.

For more information contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, D.C. office.

No Quick Fix For Credit Problems

out. Mr. James Ballentine of the American Bankers Association warns people about common marketing language used to get attention and lure vulnerable people; "We say yes, when others say NO! No Credit, No problem!" Do not be fooled, credit improvement is a process and it takes time, more time to do than it does to destroy your credit. There are consumer protection law's and they do not have to be on the state level, they can be a local effort as well.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and Mississippi Office of the Attorney General shared valuable information on to protect themselves from Identity Theft

and Mail Fraud. People living in rural areas with a mail box on the road, should not leave their mail in the box for a lengthy period of time. If a thief gets it they have all the information needed to steal



**Mr. James Ballentine,
American Bankers Assoc.**

your identity and ruin your credit. Using the blue drop boxes can prevent that

according to Postal Inspection Service. The Mississippi Attorney General's Office announced the opening of a new office established to deal only with Identity Theft. Plus, after investigation if it has been

determined you are a victim of identity theft they can issue an "Identity Theft Passport Card," according to Director, Mr. Grant Hedgepath. This card can prove to be a life saver under many circumstances. Three initial steps to take if you are a victim of identity theft are, first - call the police, second - contact all three credit bureaus, and third - call your State Attorney General. Alderwoman Gertrude Young of Vicksburg, is concerned about, "citizens who are first time home buyers and not as familiar with the closing process and the language they use. New terms are springing up. Mr. James Ballentine feels there will be a national bill that will help simplify the process and restrict the use unnecessary jargon.

The Credit Reporting Bureaus provide consumers with more than just a copy of their credit report, they can also flag accounts if a person has been the victim of identity theft. To learn the dispute process please visit TransUnion, LLC on the web at <http://www.transunion.com/Contact.jsp>. The Fair Credit Reporting Act, enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, has undergone changes in favor of the consumer. One change will provide a free yearly copy of credit reports upon request from the consumer, for more information go to <http://www.ftc.gov/>.

For more information contact Timla G. Washington in my Greenwood office.

Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at www.house.gov/thompson.

Injustice Is Injustice: There Is No Difference

scandal.

The actions of the select few at Abu Ghraib is a reflection of what has happened in our country for years. The Columbia and Oakley training schools in Mississippi have been put under the microscope following allegations of inhumane treatment of youth detainees. At my request, the United States Department of Justice investigated reports of abuse at the two training schools, making recommendations to repair the dangerous conditions. The State ignored those suggestions, thus prompting the Justice Department to bring formal charges against it.

It is extremely unfortunate that the guards in both the Iraq prison and in Mississippi training schools abused people. Incidents like these place negative labels on veteran's, hard working men and women, and our country solely at the fault of a few irresponsible people.

Like in the Iraq prisoner abuse scandal, officials at the training schools were notified of wrong-doings well in advance and could have initiated

change. The Justice Department brought charges, not just to punish those responsible, but to save the lives of the detainees. Again, to parallel the training schools to Abu Ghraib, many have called on the closing of these infamous sites which bear the reputation

and our Country is adamant about upholding justice.

I applaud the coop-

"...training schools in Mississippi have been put under the microscope."

erative efforts made thus far, and trust the strengths of our democracy to bring final justice. I call on our Country to use similar strengths to put an end to the Abu Ghraib prison and the Mississippi training schools because systemic change is required.

For more information contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, D.C. office.



**Congressman Bennie
Thompson Town Hall
meeting on Oakley and
Columbia Schools**

of permanent misconduct. The stigma of these institutions is lasting, administrative change or their closure would send a message to prove the State of Mississippi

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Email: ThompsonMS2nd@mail.house.gov



All the artwork that was presented at the 10th Annual "Artistic Discovery" Congressional Art Competition, were in their right "a thing of beauty." There were more than 60 entries but on only one winner, Andrea Spears. She is a senior at Amanda Elzy High School, Greenwood, Mississippi. The winning entry is named "Innocence." Andrea Spears along with her mother, Ms. Gloria Spears will travel to Washington, D.C. this summer to compete with other winners from other states. In addition she will receive a Merit Scholarship from Savannah College of the Art and

I commend work and talents put traits and to participate. I would Compete. Mr. Leeson Greenville another and sup-

also like to say "Thank you" to Mr. Jay Kurgis, Dr. Janice Dean and Mr. James Jackson for agreeing to be the judges for the competition. A special thank you to Mr. Jackson for being named Wal-Mart's "Teacher of the Year." And another congratulations to all of the other winners.

For more information contact Juliet Thomas in my Greenville office.



Cedric Pulley, Principal and Andrea Spears, Winner of 10th Annual Artistic Discovery Competition hosted by Congressman Bennie G. Thompson

would like to all the hard time these students put into their portfolios. I would like to thank my Competition Coordinator, Taylor, Principal, High School for outstanding job port.



Washington, D.C.

2432 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515
 (202) 225-5876
 (202) 225-5898 (Fax)



Bolton

107 West Madison Street
 Bolton, Mississippi 39041
 (601) 866-9003
 (601) 866-9036 (Fax)
 (800) 355-9003 (In State)



Greenville

910 Courthouse Lane
 Greenville, Mississippi 38701
 (662) 335-9003
 (662) 334-1304 (Fax)



Greenwood

509 Highway 82 West
 Greenwood, Mississippi 38930
 (662) 455-9003
 (662) 453-0118 (Fax)



Marks

Quitman County Court House
 335 Peach Street
 Marks, Mississippi 38646
 (662) 326-9003



Mound Bayou

Mound Bayou City Hall
 Room 134
 106 West Green Street
 Mound Bayou, Mississippi 38762
 (662) 741-9003
 (662) 741-9002 (Fax)